MINUTES
City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Tuesday, December 6, 2023 – 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present:	Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice-Chair, Council Member Owen Carson, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Wesley Shook, Acting Public Works Director Dennis Richardson, Water Treatment Plan Supervisor Emory Owen, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Aaron Winans, WWTP Staff Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Communications Coordinator Becky McCann certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Carson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. November 21, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Carson, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Wastewater Treatment Plan RFQ Update

Mr. Hooper informed the committee that today he sent our representative at AECOM the notes of the draft RFQ that we have currently been discussing with our High Strength Waste staff committee. The representative is going to incorporate those, and we should have the RFQ ready for publication by January 1st. The RFQ will be available for a month, and we will collect solicitations around February 1st, 2024.

Then we will move into our selection process. We will engage the committee in the selection process, probably in the interview portion of the selection. Not only is this RFQ soliciting engineering services, but we are also soliciting a suite of professional services, all of which are usually performed by engineering firms. Some of the services include helping us find additional funding and projecting what our wastewater needs will be in the future. Also, we are not going to require the firms to submit five references; we thought if they submit three references, it would be adequate. We wanted to ensure the firm had the ability not just to design and recommend a new system but also to design the wastewater plant to be constructed while our existing plant was in operation due to our current site constraints. It will raise policy questions regarding how much capacity we want to build, what kind of treatment process we want, and how much we are willing to pay. It will most likely take this firm nine months to a year to create this report. One important point I mentioned earlier is that using the existing site might not be the most economical; it might be more economical to buy a new site somewhere else and relocate the plant, which will raise issues to reclassify the river, a process that will take years to accomplish. When the new draft is ready, we will circulate this to the committee before we publish it. We will advertise it on our normal website and our usual channels, but AECOM will connect us to industry-specific websites and publications as well.

Additional Comments:

Mr. Shook explained that they should be completing the Railroad Ave bridge soon, and we are about to start working on the bollards. He also informed the committee that he still has leaves to collect off the street.

Ms. Copelof asked are we going to manage to have any more streets paved this year, since the asphalt company is still working.

Mr. Shook replied that he spoke to the company to see if we could, and he said that he will try, but it depends on how long the asphalt manufacturer will keep producing. They may shut down soon, and then we'd have to wait until Spring.

Mr. Owen informed the committee that we received permission from the state to perform a 30-day pilot study of peracetic acid as the primary disinfectant. The treatment method being used could potentially save the city up to $150,000 a year in chemical costs.

Mr. Hooper said that a change order was issued for Burrel Mountain that will cause an overage in the amount of $250,000. Mr. Brown approached the state to request more money at the same 75%/25% split to cover the extra costs. However, the state did not grant the request and instead offered to fold the extra costs into the existing 0% interest loan rather than pay for the overage from the fund balance.

Mr. Richardson communicated to the committee that Mr. Brown turned in a list to the state outlining the work being done at the Water Treatment Plant. Currently, electrical engineering work is being conducted to replace the pumps, electrical panels, a generator that runs the plant, drying beds, and actuators in the pipe galley.

Mr. Morrow expressed the hope that Mr. Wise and Mr. Carson will be able to tour the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms. Copelof asked about the status of the recent Wastewater spill.

Mr. Hooper explained that the pipe has been repaired, and we are continuing to take measurements periodically. There has been a steady decrease in the number of contaminants in the water, both upstream and downstream from the spill. All required reports have been completed. Regarding the replacement of the pipe, we have consulted with Mr. Fuller, who has not yet provided a solution.

Ms. McCann shared with the committee that she is working on a dedicated page on the City of Brevard website where people can learn about our Wastewater Treatment Plant to keep them informed, as well as a frequently asked questions page.

F. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Public Works & Utilities Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

G. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

X Mac Morrow

Minutes Approved: January 3, 2024

Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

X

Alex Shepherd
Assistant to the City Manager